

# My Skills My Life: Classroom Carousel

Lisa Secrett is a Senior Engineer for Network Rail who delivered a session, with 2 supporting role models, for a local Primary School in March 2020.

## How did you prepare for the session?

My sons attend this school, so I approached the deputy head in person to ask about running a session with the pupils. My session was run with girls ages 9-11 in two sessions of around 45 minutes each. I briefed the supporting role models on how the session would run. I made sure to send a copy of the presentation to the school in advance for pre set up & to keep them informed of the session content. I also printed and laminated role model cards and personality type cards as well as the printed out questionnaire sheets.



## What happened during the session?

I asked the school to encourage the girls to draw what they think a Professor looks like to use as an icebreaker when opening the session.

We set up in the School Hall with projector at the front—the girls sat in rows whilst we talked through the presentation and asked any pre-questionnaire questions.

The girls were then split into 3 groups to complete their questionnaire joined by one role model to assist. Once complete the role models rotated around the groups to share their career path stories. I would definitely say that splitting the groups made the role model chats more intimate and gave a better opportunity for questions.

### Lisa's Top Tips!

Try to gather a variety of backgrounds in your role models so that these discussions are different for the pupils. Think about your ice breaker and ensure you give notice to the school if the pupils need to prepare something before (such as what they think a professor looks like). It's a good idea to laminate everything apart from the questionnaire sheets so that they may be used again for another session. I found that the sessions ran slightly longer than I planned, so a practice run through will help you plan. I also asked one role model to be timekeeper and prompt me during the presentation for time management.

**“As a familiar face at the school when collecting my children & found I had lots of new friends and even some follow up questions. The teachers all really enjoyed the sessions and I have presented 2 years in a row at the same school.”**